The Freedmen's Bureau.

The Looseness of its Management.

Washington, August 9, 1866.—Generals STEEDMAN and FULLERTON to-day filed their final report on the operations of the Freedmen's Bureau. After giving a great deal of statistical information, Messrs. STEEDMAN and FULLERTON make the folowing concluding summary:

In pursuing this investigation, which has now extended over four months, we have found extreme difficulty in complying with that portion of our instructions which requires us to report upon the operations of the Bureau, and its mode of administration. The Bureau has no settled mode of administration. There is an entire absence of system or uniformity in its constitution. In one State its officers exercise judicial powers; in an adjoining State all cases are referred to the civil authorities, while in a third State the Bureau officers collect the cases and turn them over to the Military Provost Court to dispose of. In some departments the officers of the Bureau have attempted to regulate the rate of wages. One form of contract between employer and employed is prescribed in one State, while in another a lifferent form is employed.

In Louisiana the expense of the freedmen's schools have been wholly paid by the Government. In the other States the schools are partially self-supporting, and in Texas written, that we are opposed to the freedmen contracting with the planters. By no means,

In some localities the Bureau officers interfere arbitrarily between the planters and the freedmen, in favor of the freedmen; in is to make contracts either for a share of the other localities the Bureau is used as a means crops or liberal wages; but we are opposed to of coercing the freedmen in favor of the planter. The expenditure of the Bureau to hire them out, prescribing the terms of varies as much as its mode of admininstra-tion. In one State the expenses are over paid them. They are not free so long as any \$300,000 a year; in another State, with an such control is exercised over them, nor can equal population, the expenses are not they ever receive just reward for their labor more than \$50,000. In some States the ex- while they are compelled to hire within a penses have been met by taxes levied on and given time for a specified term-Collected from the people, and in other States the cost is entirely borne by the United States Treasury.

In Mississippi and other States, freedmen were compelled, by orders from officers of the Bureau, to enter into contracts within

We found it impossible to investigate the limited periods, which enabled all who accounts of the Bureau Quartermasters, for wanted hands to get them at low wages, while, if the freedmen had not been inter the reason that when the funds were received from taxes, rents, fines and the sale of aban- fered with, the demand for labor would have enabled them to secure just remuneration. doned property, there was no means of ascertaining the amounts received except from It is a great error to suppose that the freedthe personal statement of the officers them-selves. A Quartermaster in the army draw-for themselves. They are sharp at a baring his funds from the Government has gain, know well what a contract is, and are the amount charged up to him, and is obliged | much better collectors than white people. As to account for it in his return, but the looseness of the administration of the Quartercontracts are enforced by the agents of the Bureau against the freedmen, we may menertment of the Bureau, and the abscence of all check upon the officers, give tion a case which came under our own ob seruation. A colored blacksmith, who had no security, except the personal honesty of the men themselves. We examined the accounts of brevet Brigadier-General WHITTLESEY, listed in the United States army, being about Burean Quartermaster of the Department of o be mustered out of service, wrote to his Mississippi, who satisfied us that he had hon-estly administered the affairs of his department and had accounted for all the money reout, and set up shop, and go to housekeeping. His wife, accordingly, declined at first ceived by him; but whether his predecessor, who collected a large amount from taxes, rents and sales, paid over to General Whito make a long contract, but was finally com-belled to engage herself for a year. The oldier, on his return, went to the plantation TLESEY all the money in his hands belonging to the Bureau, we were unable to deterwhere his wife was working, and applied for . We do not make this statement to reflect upon that officer, against whom there her release, but failed to get her. He then were no charges, but to illustrate the loose sent a written statement of the case to an agent of the Bureau, who forwarded it to the Assistant Commissioner for the State, It

The official report of Col. Rano, United States Army, Provost Master General of the | was returned from headquarters with the Bureau for Louisiana, a copy of which is herewith forwarded, marked D, shows a deficit of upward of \$7,000 in the accounts of the officers who were engaged in the collecting of taxes in New Orleans, which deficit Colonel Ruxo says he is unable to explain consequence of the loose manner the ligiously observing their agreements are paramount to the wishes of individuals, and that

books were kept.
One of the defaulting officers, Lieutenant
Foster, who, Colonel Reno believes approbeing no positive evidence of such injustice

the Bareau has no interference printed to his own use the largest amount of the deficiency, carried off his cash-book with in this case, the Bureau has no interference iim. This officer, on his own responsibility, levied an incidental tax, which Colonel Rano calls an invention of his own, and which, with the exception of one or two undred dollars, went into his own pocket. We are of opinion that at the close of the war, and for some time after the cessation of hostilities, the Freedmen's Bureau did

thirty years to thirty masters, or for thirty The people of the South, having at first no faith in the negroes working under a free labor system, were desirous of getting id of them, and during the summer of 1865, udicious bureau and military officers alid mented President Lixcoln. If the freedman leaves work to seek employment at bet and inducing the people of the South to resume the cultivation of their plantations the Freedmen's Bureau, and put to labor on the road with ball and chain, as i by employing the freedmen. Before the close of 1865 there was an entire revolution provided by an order recently issued in the sentiments of the people of the South with regard to negro labor. A feeling of kindness sprang up towards the freedmen, resulting perhaps, mainly from the conviction that he had a sentiment of the people of the South Carolina.

If fatigued from over work he desires to rest for a day, if he leaves the plantation to ion that his labor was desirable and profitable, and the only labor to be had. The necessity of the Bureau then cessed. Since then, while it has been beoeficial in some hen, while it has been beneficial in some ocalities, it has been productive, in the agreement of sucressioned, and will perpetuate discord as arrested by the Bureau Prezost Marshal localities, it has been productive, in the aggregate, of more harm than good. It has long as it exists, though administered by the and sold for a few dollars to the nearest

purest and wisest men of the nation. The freedmen regard its presence as an evidence that they would be ansafe without it, and the white people consider it an imputation upon their integrity and fairness; an espionage upon the official action of all | tion of some of the Southern States. their courts and magistrates, as well as upon the private conduct of their citizens. Both a breach of contract, is a suit for damages, races are thus made suspicious and bitter by an agency which, in the present reorganized condition of civil government and society in the Southern States, is useless to advance the interests of cither.

The freedman has nothing to sell but his labor, and we are strongly of the opinion that he ought

The best protection the freedman has in to be permitted to obtain for it the highest the South is the value of his labor in the market, and if he is left free to dispose of this at all times to the highest hidder, unhackled by contracts made for him by Bureau officers, no apprehension need be felt for his safety or his success. If the freeduen could, at this moment, demand the wages which the high price of the products of the South would justify, \$1 and board would be the ruling wages instead of \$10 or \$12 per month, the prices new paid. But they can not take advantage of the demand for their labor. They are bound by con tracts, enslaved for twelve months through A mineral, partaking somewhat of the natures of both coal and bitumen, is found the agency and influence of the Freedmen's Bureau. The hands on the Mississippi river steamboats were not required to make contracts, and they are getting \$40 per mouth and board for labor less exacting than that of a plantation negro.

Steamboats were not required to make contracts, and they are getting \$40 per mouth and board for labor less exacting than that of a plantation negro.

The freedmen on the Ogeoche and Savan- lount almost in a pure state. The best when and rivers are getting on the rice plantations | distilled, will yield fully fifty gallons of from ten to fifteen dollars per mouth, under crude oil to the tun of 2,240 pounds. It entract for the year, while the laborers em- gives up its volatile products with great ployed on the Georgia Central Railroad, | facility, does not swell in the retort, and the which runs between these streams, are get-ting a dollar and a half day. Some com-hours. It is found in different varieties, ting a dollar and a half day. Some complaints were made to us by the planters on
the Sayannah river that their laborers were
sel similar to lava; others a whitish ash.

46 & 48 South College Street,

NASHVILLE INSURANCE
some comwill permanently cure the most obstinate as well
as recent cases of Hernia. he Savannah river that their laborers were sel similar to lava; others a whitish ash, by their contracts. One of the planters, a | the original material until it is disturbed. practical, liberal minded man, explained the | That found in New Brunswick is in beds of cause of discontent to be the low wages at two to thirteen feet in thickness. Nearly which the negroes were hired. He said: "1 | 3,000 tuns of this substance have been in can get hands enough, and good work done, ported into Salem, Massachusetts, for distiltoo, by paying a dollar a day and rations, and lation, and gave on an average fifty gallons I am paying that, and expect to pay even more. I can give three dollars a day and shipment \$6.00 per tun, or 12½ cents per make money. The negro is going to make gallon on the yield. This trade has been

all he can out of his freedom, and he has a temporarily stopped by the abrogation of the reciprocity treaty with the British pro-The enlightened policy advocated by this gentlemen—a policy strongly in accordance with justice and sound political economy—

the reciprocity treaty win the Entish provinces. The deposits already known to exist in New Brunswick contain more than 20, 000,000 tuns, or 1,000,000,000 gallons of is defeated by the contract system inaugu- crude oil of the specific gravity of 29 degrees rated and forced into operation by the efficers of the Freedmen's Bureau. We met with cannel distillation has made some progress; of the Freedmen's Barcan. We met with instances of freedmen working for \$10 per month and rations, under yearly contracts, sanctioned by the Barcan, while in the same field, doing the same work, other freedmen, not under the contracts, were getting \$1 per day and rations. In all of the large towns of the Mississippi Valley, during the month of the Mississippi Valley, during the month of May and June, planters were offering \$1 per day and rations for freedmen, while under ricans as the precious metals of the Pacific

T. J.JETTON, C. & M.

Of the Chancery Court at Woodbury. the sanction of the Government, given by States.

DAILY UNION AND AMERICAN

e officers and agents of the Bureau, thou- THE PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION.

VOLUME XXXIII.

ands of freedmen were working under con-

tract for \$10 per month.

If the freedmen are left free to contract, the demand for their labor and competition

mong the employers will secure them good

for him in another section.

been paid, under the influence and with the

planter, who not unfrequently resorts to vio-

ence to enforce his contract, and this makes

contract. Investigation follows, resulting generally in finding the freedmen at fault for

and they are required to return to the .plan-

tation, while the planter is admonished to

In some cases of this nature the contract selectared forfeited by the conduct of the

the freedmen are not bound to fulfill their

greements. The fault, the cause of the dif-

culty, is in the contract which has been un-

ustly forced upon the poor freedmen. It

must not be inferred from what we have

We believe the very best thing they can do

urb his temper.

following indorsement:

The system of contracts now existing i

the South, and enforced by the Bureau, is simply slavery in a new form. What is the

difference to the negro whether he is sole

or five dollars, or five thousand dollars; for

cears to one master? It is involuntary ser

rest for a day, if he leaves the plantation to visit a colative or friend, it is made a penal

e seen by circular No. 14, of General Kin-

planter, as in the case of Captain Morse, o

New Orleans, already referred to. The coercive policy adopted by the Bureau in

The only remedy against a white man for

certainly not more just or lawful for an

Your obedient servants,

J. S. FULLERTON, Brigadier General Volunteers.

JAMES P. STEEDMAN,

Major General Volunteers.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 1866.

INSURANCE.

From the New York Express. As the hour approaches for the assembling of this important body, the interest, and the anxiety increase respecting its proceedings. The sources of this anxiety are

wages and kind treatment. They will not Its discordant materials, which may, by stract with men who treat them harshly, illy speeches or more serious quarrels, der fail to pay them, as is abundantly proven stroy all its efficiency, and thus do more harm y the fact that many planters who treated an good. eir former slaves cruelly are now unable Discordant materials are nothing new in a to hire freedmen to work for them, and have reat convention. The old Whig party in seen obliged to sell or lease their plantations. We are unable to discover why the

834-36 was formed of the most discordant terials-Federalists, Democrats, Antisimple rules which regulate and control dasons, Abolitionists, Pro-Slavery men, etc. the relations of labor and capital in the te.,-a material as discordant as could be Northern States should not obtain as well in all gathered; and yet in 1836, it almost as South, when the National Government whipped the hitherto invincible Democratic should permit the laboring men to sell his party, and in 1840, routed it, with "Tipperabor to the highest bidder in one section of cance and Tyler," an old Whig, and State he country, and appoint an agent to sell it Rights Demogra

In 1856 the FREMONT party was formed It is undoubtedly true that if the freed nade up of everything and anything, Whigs cople of the South were not bound by con-Anti-Masons, Barnburners, Free Soil Den cts, their wages would be at least fifty erats, Temperance men, Anti-Temperance per cent. higher at this time than they are, m, etc., etc., - and but for the running of nd there would be less discontent among Mr. FILLMORE by the Old Line Whigs, Mr. he freedmen than now exists, and far less FREMONT would have been then elected duty for the agents of the Bureau to perform. resident. The third (FILLMORE) party Almost the only dissatisfaction existing at ne saved the country from that calamity this time among the freedmen results from in 1860 the odds and ends of everything the low rate of wages at which they have

Now, in 1866, these odds and ends of every

elected Lincoln.

approval of the agents of the Bureau, This discontent makes the freedmen unwilling to thing, in the disunion, no longer "Union," party, black-mouthed Radicals, like Bourwork, and their indolence provokes the ELL, and red-mouthed Radicals, lik BROWNLOW, who both have danced about on every point as to slavery, hoot at, and business for the officer who sanctioned the howl at, the Democrats, the SEWARDITES, the Dooltries, the ex-Secessionists, all soon, in imitation of these precedents in 1856, refusing to labor according to their contracts, 1860 and 1864, to assemble in convention They denounce the use by their opponents of the very means through which they got into power, viz., the ignoring of the Pas and the sole contemplation of the Future There is danger, of course, from the asclanter, who goes away from the Bureau celling that a decision has been made that abling of such men in one hall, but no more danger than the Republicans experienced in 1856, 1860 and 1864. Discordan men are often, from the necessity of the case the most harmonious in action, because the are necessarily the most on their guard. We hope to see men thus on their guard in the Philadelphia Convention. If there be any orthern or Southern fools, full of fighting speeches, their proper places are in the back-ground. Harmony, Order, Peace, are the only elements that should reign in the convention-and if they do reign, there will come from the Republican party votes enough to give us Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, with a great many more votes in other States, soon, under the lead of the AT NO. 34 NORTH COLLEGE STRE great States, to give us three-fourths of the Northern States in the Union, Hence, every delegate in that convention should subordinate all his prejudices and passions

> weal, without reference to himself. THE Earl of DERBY, the new English Prenier, is said to be much more genial and full of life and fun, at his advanced age, than his son, Lord STANLEY. At a dinner at Knowsley Park, Lord Stanley left the table soon after the ladies had withdrawn, leaving the gentlemen to their usual devo-tions-whereupon the Earl said, "Now that the old man's gone, let's have some

to common sense, and seek only the public

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Having set spart a portion of this Mammoth As no two cases of Hernia are alike, it is neces ACCOMMODATION OF TRANSFERT sary to have a personal examination, and an in strument made to sait the peculiarities of the References can be given in this city of case most respectfully solicit a share of their put-

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DISSOLUTION. THE FIRM OF STRATTON, POINTER & CO. is thirday dissolved by mutual consent, Two. Potygram retiring. THOS. G. POINTER, H. J. CHENEY, R. P. ROY.

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IN RETERING, I RECOMMEND MY SUC-cessors, Mosers, Sthauton, Chinney & Roy, for the continuance of the former patronage, so sibrally bestowed upon our late firm. THOS. G. POINTER. NASHVILLE, July 9, 1866.

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